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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/963,564	09/27/2001	Hui-Wan Chen	CHEN3291/EM/7264	8917
23364	7590	10/05/2004	EXAMINER	
BACON & THOMAS, PLLC 625 SLATERS LANE FOURTH FLOOR ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			CHOI, LING SIU	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1713	

DATE MAILED: 10/05/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/963,564	CHEN, HUI-WAN
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Ling-Siu Choi	1713

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 27 September 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 1-11 are objected to because of the following informalities: **Claim 1**, line 3, "are" is suggested to be changed to --being--; line 7, "is" is being suggested to be changed to --being--; line 17, "tank," is suggested to be changed to -tank--; line 18, "are" is suggested to be changed to --being--.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. **The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:**

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by Lau et al. (WO 98/52031).

The present invention relates to an **electrophoresis separator** comprising an **electrophoresis tank** and a **receiving tank** as its main body, the electrophoresis separator is characterized by

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1	the receiving tank is used for placing carriers therein and provided with a slot on each side thereof to communicate with said electrophoresis tank;
2	one side of each of said carriers is provided with a notch in corresponding to one of the slots
3	a bottom blocking piece is provided at the bottom of the receiving tank directly covers the bottoms of said carriers and crevices between the notches and the receiving tank, and blocking sheets being inserted into the slots and notches, the blocking sheets are removed from the slots and notches after gel filled in the carriers is fixed and shaped, thus the gel contacts with the electric conducting liquid in the electrophoresis tank through said slots and notches
4	the other ends of the bodies of the gel in the carriers contacts the electric conducting liquid in the receiving tank through upper openings of the carriers directly
5	electric current floating is resulted to cause an effect of molecule separation and analysis for samples in the gel

(summary of claim 1)

Lau et al. disclose a gel casting and electrophoresis device comprising an integrated frame assembly adapted to hold a gel cassette having an edge and including a bottom sealing mean which is movable from a first position for sealing the edge of the gel cassette for gel casting to a second position for the edge of the gel cassette to contact a buffer medium for electrophoresis (claim 1). Thus, the present claims are anticipated by the disclosure of Lau et al..

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Ling-Siu Choi whose telephone number is 571-272-1098.

If attempt to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Wu, can be reach on 571-272-1114.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Ling-Siu Choi
LING-SIU CHOI
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Ling -Siu Choi, Ph.D.

September 20, 2004